

PUZZLE of the PIGMIES



Prof. David C. Worcester and his wife in the Philippines

Science Is Inclined To Regard Them As the Most Ancient of Human Beings—The Little Niggers of Far Eastern Archipelagoes—Monkey-Like Men of Madagascar—The Aklas.

By Gene Bache

WEIRD tales have always attached to pigmies. The ancients had many stories about them, derived from travelers' tales and more or less mixed with myth. But Herodotus and Pliny both wrote about strange tribes of dwarfs that were said to dwell in the neighborhood of the Mountains of the Moon, toward the source of the Nile, and this statement of theirs was entirely correct, as proved by modern explorers.

The pigmies are still a puzzle, in so far as their origin is concerned. But anthropologists are inclined to believe that they represent the earliest surviving human inhabitants of the earth. Wherever found, they seem to have been first on the scene, antedating any other race.

Exploration within the last century has proved them to be rather widely distributed. They are found not only in Africa, but also in Far Eastern archipelagoes. They are inhabitants of Madagascar and Ceylon. But always they are of the same type—starkly monkey-like, with frizzly hair that does not grow all over their bodies, but in scattered tufts.

When first we gained possession of



Circus Dwarves and a Circus Chief



Andaman Island Pigmies Shooting Torches

the Philippines, nothing in relation to these islands interested us more than the pigmies, who, as we learned, were inhabitants of Mindanao and some other parts of that group. We were told that there were perhaps 25,000 of them; that they were widely wild, yet timid and harmless unless attacked; that they sowed no useful plant and kept no domestic beast or bird; that they had no fixed abiding place, wandering through the dense tropical forests in small bands, and sleeping where night overtook them.

Studying The Little People

This description, as far as it goes, is correct. But afterwards Prof. David C. Worcester made, in behalf of our government, a study of these little people, measuring them and even procuring a few of their skeletons, which latter he sent to Washington. He found the average height of the pigmy man to be 4 feet, 7 inches; the women were about 4 inches shorter.

The jaws of these dwarfs project far beyond their noses, and their faces are wrinkled in deep lines like a monkey's. Their teeth are filed to

points, giving the effect of a saw, and are varnished black or red. They are much tattooed, and both sexes go naked except for a cord about the waist, from which hangs a scrap of cloth.

Occasionally they build huts of four sticks and a few palm leaves, with a floor elevated a couple of feet above the ground. Beneath the floor a fire smolders, for warmth in winter and to keep off mosquitoes in summer. These little people know how to make fire by sawing one piece of bamboo with another, a small quantity of dry rotten wood serving as tinder to catch the sparks generated by friction.

Queer Pigmie Customs

If attacked, the pigmies fight hard, and in retaliation for injury, they will rob and destroy the fields of their enemies. They give to their children names of birds, insects and plants. When one of them dies, the body is inclosed in the bark of a tree, taken off entire, the ends of the cylinder being sealed with a mixture of earth and gum. The corpse is buried in a standing posture beneath a hut of

poles and palm leaves; then the hut is burned, and the place is abandoned permanently. It is regarded as taboo, obstacles being put in all paths leading to it.

Marriage is a trial of marksmanship, the intended bride being the target. She holds under one arm a ball of palm leaves, and her would-be husband fires a blunt arrow. If it passes through the leaves without striking her, the two are united for life. If he fails, the union is forbidden. Inasmuch as the livelihood of the couple must depend mainly upon the dexterity of the man in the use of bow and arrow, the ordeal is a practical test of his ability to support a wife.

These pigmies are very black and wonderful runners. There is no doubt of the fact that anciently they populated the whole of the Malay Archipelago. In Formosa (which geographically, though not politically, belongs to the Philippines group), many of their bones have been found. Doubtless they were killed off by the Malays.

The Little Niggers, as they are commonly called, are like the great apes and minor monkey tribes dwellers in warm latitudes, wherever found. In the Bay of Bengal they are inhabitants of the Andaman Islands—decidedly fierce, this tribe of them, and formerly addicted to the practice of man-eating, any strangers who had the misfortune to be cast away on their inhospitable shores.

Fire From A Volcano

The dwarfs of the Andamans are described as "looking like babies in their lives"—partly for the reason that they are strikingly potbellied. This, however, is a common characteristic of the pigmy race elsewhere. One of the islands of that archipelago is a live volcano, and from this source the little people get their fire, which (not knowing how to make it), they carefully preserve in slowly-smoldering logs of decayed wood.



Dwarf Immigrant at Ellis Island

New Guinea is the largest island in the world with the exception of Greenland, and most of it has never been explored. It is not surprising, then, to learn that it has its own pigmies—little fellows so extremely black that their complexion has been likened to a newly blackened stove. They have extremely broad noses, and their hair grows in scattered peppercorn tufts.

The same race of dwarfs is found in Madagascar, where they are called the *Malagasy*. They are monkey-like not only in appearance, but also in their habits, living in dense woods and jumping from tree to tree like apes. So timid are they that, when captured, they usually die of fright—so, at all events, it is said.

African Pigmies

It was the explorer Schweinfurth who first discovered the pigmies who dwell near the sources of the Nile in Africa. Today we know a good deal about them, but it is not true, as Herodotus alleged, that they have tiny horses. They keep no domestic animals. But it is a fact, curiously enough, that neighboring negro tribes possess cows and sheep of Lilliputian size.

Their villages, always temporary, are located in the vicinity of areas cultivated by negro tribes, in whose behalf they collect ivory and palm wine, and do service as hunters of game, receiving in payment grain, tobacco, and other things they want. They are not molested with impunity, for they are ready enough to fight, and their poisoned arrows are deadly. Each little warrior carries at his belt a leather bottle containing a poison of light yellow color which is said to be made by macerating the bodies of venomous ants. A mere prick of an arrow dipped in it will cause death in a minute.

Like the Little Niggers elsewhere, they wear no clothing except a string with a flap of bark cloth. When one of them dies, the body is placed inside of a hollow tree, which is thereupon filled up with earth. Or sometimes, if it be a chief who has passed away, a grave is dug in its bed, and the water is turned back.

Dwarfs Met By Stanley

Further to the west are found pigmies of another tribe, who call themselves *Wambatti*. It was these whom the explorer Stanley came across. One of them, a full-grown woman, was 3 inches less than 4 feet high, but as he describes her, "perfectly formed, and of a glistering sleekness of body with absurdly large eyes."

South of the Congo is another tribe of dwarfs, the *Batwa*, who build dome-shaped houses in a circle, with the chief's residence in the center. At a distance of 100 yards from the village, a sentry box big enough to hold two little men is placed in every path with



Dwiny Boys (Philip-pines) Making Fire

a doorway looking up the trail. The *Batwa* are said to do service as a sort of frontier guard between negro states. Freely confessing the practice of cannibalism, they say that a parrot is a man because he talks like a man; a monkey is a man because he can use his hands and looks like a man; and parrots, monkeys and men are all good to eat.

The famous anthropologist Virchow has expressed the opinion that the scattered tribes of pigmies in Africa are survivors of a primitive and very ancient race from which all the present-day negroes of the Dark Continent were originally derived. Once upon a time, according to his theory, they were the sole inhabitants of Africa.

In the neighborhood of Mount Taylor, Arizona, are numerous "blow-holes" in volcanic lava which are imagined to have been long ago occupied by pigmy people. Built within these strange caverns are tiny stone houses, some of them half filled with lava which has flowed in through the doors and windows. This proves that there has been at least one outbreak of subterranean fire since the supposed dwarfs took up residence in that locality.

All the region about Mount Taylor is covered by sheets of lava. As the Pictorian vomit flowed over the land, cooling as it went, great bubbles of gas formed in it, leaving cavities in the hardening material. The landscape is indescribably desolate, much resembling a scene on the moon, as viewed through a telescope. Some of the "blow-holes" are big enough to accommodate whole regiments of pigmies.

Circus Dwarfs Are Different

The pigmies of Africa and Far Eastern archipelagoes are normal people of an ancient and diminutive race. Dwarfs such as are exhibited in circuses and shows are freaks of nature. Within recent years showmen's agents have searched the world for tiny men and women, picking up one here and another there. Troupes of them have even been formed for theatrical tours, giving (with an accompanying giant) such plays as "Jack the Giant Killer" and "Jack and the Beanstalk."

Very interesting are these little folks; and most curious of all are the so-called "midgets" which are in a class by themselves—mere human dolls, one might call them. The midgets are always mentally defective and they never live long.

AMONG THE MOVIE STARS



Lionel Barrymore and Mrs. Barrymore (Doris Rankin) in "The Copperhead"

A Baby Vampire—Parties and Late Hours Forbidden—Star With Several Hobbies—The Copperhead—Treats Her Machine Kindly.

VIOLA DANA'S new photoplay describes the title "Dangerous to Men," from the fact that in it the winsome Metro star plays the role of a "baby vampire." She appears as Eliza, an orphaned girl, who quickly acquires a surprising knowledge of the ways of men, until her sweetheart concludes she is appealingly dangerous—so dangerous that he marries her to curb her.

Miss Dana's "camping" proclivities, however, are lightly treated in the picture. She leaves no ruined adobe in her wake. She's more of a mischievous coquette than a home-wrecker. And she does her part so well that "Dangerous to Men" received only words of highest praise from motion picture reviewers in New York and other large cities, who have seen the production on the silver sheet.

The elderly gentleman who in the accompanying photograph is accompanying to the wiles of "that girl Eliza" is James Barrows, cast as Uncle Gregory in Miss Dana's picture, which is an adaptation of "Eliza Comes to Stay," the famous stage play by H. V. Esmond.

Constance Binney

Constance Binney is a very busy young lady these days. She is at the studio from nine until six and is usually so tired when she gets home that

bed is the most inviting place. For one of the most important things when working before the camera is to look bright and fresh. Parties and late hours are forbidden.

Miss Binney is working in "29 East," an adaptation of the successful play in which she appeared. One of the remarkable things about this production is that almost the entire original cast, who appeared in the stage production are playing their same roles in the picture. The only important change in the cast is the leading man role. Napoleon Gibbs, which was played by Henry Hull. It is interpreted on the screen by Reginald Denney. Miss Binney's first starring picture was "Erst while Susan."

Naomi Childers

Naomi Childers was born in St. Louis, but began her stage career in New York City, where she played under the management of Henry W. Savage and H. H. Frazee. Her finest success was with H. B. Warner in "Among Those Present." She was scheduled to appear in a Belasco war play, but the armistice prevented the production of it.

Miss Childers was educated in St. Louis, and spent much of her time there, and at her mother's home at Lake Champlain. She had been in motion picture work for three years.



Constance Binney

when a rest became necessary, and she retired from before the camera for a time. Resuming, she played in a number of picture with Tom Moore, and with Farrar in "The World and Its Woman." Among the Tom Moore pictures in which she has appeared are "Lord and Lady Almy," "Gay Lord Quex," "Duds," and still more recently, in the Goldwyn picture, "Earthbound."

Mr. and Mrs. Barrymore

Lionel Barrymore and Mrs. Barrymore (Doris Rankin), as Milt and Ma Shanks in the 1923 period of "The Copperhead," the Paramount screen version of the play by Augustus Thomas, in which Mr. Barrymore also played the leading role.

"Dick" Barthelmess Married

All the matinee girls can now take out their handkerchiefs and have a good old-fashioned cry, for he is known that Richard Barthelmess has taken unto himself a wife. On June 18th, in New York, he married little Mary Hay, former dancer in the Zieg-



Mary Hay (now Mrs. Richard Barthelmess)



Richard Barthelmess



Viola Dana in "Dangerous to Men"



Eileen Percy and her Det



Naomi Childers



Eileen Percy

All movie stars have pets. Eileen Percy, who is the heroine of "Path of the Third Eye," picked an automobile for hers, and she is here and there dusting it up with a hand embroidered rose-scented dust cloth.